

2002 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

City of Carrollton

THE WATER WE DRINK

The information contained within this brochure is to inform you of the quality of drinking water produced by the City of Carrollton Water Treatment Plant (CWTP). This information and more is always available by contacting the **CWTP staff at 770-830-2021**; however, because of new federal law it is now required that this specific information be provided directly to each billed customer on an annual basis. While the City of Carrollton in no way objects to freely providing information such as that contained herein, it is quite conscious of the costs incurred for this mail-out.

TESTING INFORMATION

With new and more stringent regulations each year, increased costs for operation, and such mandates as this brochure addresses, the cost of treating water rises annually. The City strives to maintain rates as low as possible and still satisfy increasing federal and state mandates. As the customer, you are ultimately the party who ends up paying for these mandates.

We thought you should know this as well as the mandated information.

Last year Carrollton conducted over **2,000** laboratory tests for more than **116** drinking water parameters. Included in this report is information about what your water contains and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies.



Did You Know?

75% of the human brain is water

75% of a living tree is water

WATER SOURCE INFORMATION

Carrollton receives its water from two impoundments on the Little Tallapoosa River, Lake Buckhorn and Sharpe Creek Reservoir, as well as a supplemental supply contained in Lake Carroll.

CONSERVATION TIPS:

- Installing a low-flow toilet can save a family of 4 more than 45 gallons of water a day. That's 1,350 gallons a month.
- The average automatic dishwasher uses 12 to 20 gallons of water in one cycle. Save water by running the dishwasher only when it is full. Washing by hand is less efficient and wastes more water.
- Running the faucet while brushing your teeth or shaving can use two to five gallons of water per minute. Shut off the water until you're ready to rinse. You could save about 100 gallons a month.
- A leaking faucet can waste up to 100 gallons of water a day. Check for leaking faucets, toilets or pipes around the house to cut water waste.

ADDITIONAL HEALTH INFO

All drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling **EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hot Line at (800) 426-4791**. Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune systems disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk of infection. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbiological contaminants are also available from the Safe Drinking Water Hot Line at (800) 426-4791.

In order to ensure that your tap water is safe for drinking, EPA prescribes regulations, which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems.

DEFINITIONS:

In the following table you will find many terms and abbreviations you might not be familiar with. To help you better understand these terms we've provided the following definitions:

Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/l) - One part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000.

Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter (ug/l) - One part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.

Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU) - Nephelometric turbidity unit is a measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

Action Level (AL) - The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

Treatment Technique (TT) - A treatment technique is a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) - The "Maximum Allowed" is the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG) - The "Goal" is the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

ADDITIONAL WATER INFO:

MCL's are set at very stringent levels. To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated constituents, a person would have to drink 2 liters of water every day at the MCL level for a lifetime to have a one-in-a-million chance of having the described health effect.



Test Results The City of Carrollton

Contaminant	Year Sampled	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Detected Level	Range	# of Sites Above Action Level	Violation	Major Sources
Inorganic Contaminants									
Copper	2002	ppm	AL= 1.3	AL= 1.3	0.15	0.0-0.170	0	NO	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead	2002	ppb	AL= 15	0	4.0	0.0-33.0	1	NO	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride	2002	ppm	4.0	4.0	0.77	N/A	N/A	NO	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate	2002	ppm	10.0	10.0	0.24	N/A	N/A	NO	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits

Contaminant	Year Sampled	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Detected Level	Range	Violation	Major Sources
Volatile Organic Contaminants								
TTHMs (Total Trihalomethanes)	2002	ppb	80	n/a	79	46-127	NO	By-product of drinking water chlorination
HAAs (Haloacetic Acids)	2002	ppb	60	n/a	69	0-119	YES	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Dichloromethane	2002	ppb	5	0	1.13	N/A	NO	Discharge from pharmaceutical and chemical factories
Chlorine	2002	ppm	MRD L=4	MRDL G=4	1.6	N/A	NO	Water additive used to control microbes

Contaminant	Year Sampled	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Detected Level	Range	Violation	Major Sources
Microbiological Contaminants								
Turbidity	2002	NTU	TT=5NTU	0	0.074	N/A	NO	Soil runoff
			TT= Percentage of samples < 0.5 NTU		100%	N/A	NO	
Total Organic Carbon	2002	ppm	TT	n/a	1.82	1.4-2.6	NO	Naturally present in the environment

Some people who drink water containing haloacetic acids in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

Subsequent compliance testing confirms the Water Treatment Plant is now in compliance with this MCL.

Promote water pollution prevention in your neighborhood by organizing the cleanup of a river, lake, stream or canal in your community.